

**SUBJECT:** A report and recommendation on a petition to dissolve the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission (HCRPC) and transfer all HCRPC functions and duties to a new County planning commission.

**BACKGROUND:**

Community planning structure and practice has changed dramatically since HCRPC's establishment 77 years ago when it was one of a few planning organizations in the county. Today, in addition to HCRPC there are 37 municipal planning commissions and planning and zoning boards in most of the 12 townships. Hamilton County's planning structure must be reinvented to better respond to the current and future needs of the County.

The Hamilton County Commissioners support converting the planning commission from a regional form to a county form. Some of the reasons provided for converting to the county planning commission form are as followings:

1. The proposed county planning commission structure is a better fit for the current funding of the planning commission. In 2005, the Board of County Commissioners provided 94% of HCRPC funding. When the regional planning commission was initially established, local governments equally contributed to the commission's appropriations.
2. The proposed county planning commission structure eliminates current inequities in local fees and services. HCRPC's services are provided to each of Hamilton County's 49 local governments even though annual fees for local governments to be members are voluntary. In 2005, 55% of the 49 jurisdictions elected not to pay the annual fee.
3. Implementation of Hamilton County's 2030 Plan requires greater alignment of Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) goals, planning initiatives and other county department work programs. The proposed county planning commission structure facilitates this desired alignment and collaboration since the planning department will report directly to the County Administrator, just like other county departments.
4. Eliminating state audits will result in biannual savings of at least \$14,000 in addition to annual savings related to the staff time required for audit preparation.
5. Greater productivity of planning staff will be possible by eliminating the need for time spent annually on administrative tasks related to coordinating membership, recruitment, marketing, fee schedules, invoices, and collection necessary to sustain regional planning commission membership.
6. Planning Partnership, the long range planning committee, will be structured as a more inclusive action oriented alliance of all planning commissions.
7. The proposed county planning commission structures enables greater potential for future consideration of a joint city/county planning commission to address the interconnected problems and opportunities of our urban core and urban county.
8. The three County Commissioners or their appointed alternatives will serve on the County Planning Commission thereby increasing their awareness of, and participation in, planning commission initiatives.

The Ohio Revised Code §713.22 provides that a board of county commissioners or a county may, and on petition of the planning commissions of a majority of the municipal corporations in the county having those planning commissions shall, provide for the organization and maintenance of a county planning commission.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The staff of the Department of Community Development and Planning recommends that City Planning Commission take the following action:

**Approve** the attached Resolution to petition the Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners to organize and maintain a county planning commission;

**Approve** the transfer of all functions, powers and duties of the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission to the Hamilton County Planning Commission on the effective date of establishment of the Hamilton County Planning Commission;

**Approve** the dissolution of the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission on the effective date of the Hamilton County Planning Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret A. Wuerstle, AICP  
Chief City Planner

[**VILLAGE / CITY**], **OHIO**

RESOLUTION NO

## Resolution

Petitioning the Board of County Commissioners of Hamilton County, Ohio to Convert Hamilton County's Planning Commission Structure from Regional Form to County Form

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To:

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The Board of County Commissioners of Hamilton County, Ohio

**WHEREAS**, Ohio Revised Code §713.22 provides that a board of county commissioners of any county may, and on petition of the planning commissions of a majority of the municipal corporations in the county having those planning commissions shall, provide for the organization and maintenance of a county planning commission, and

**WHEREAS**, Ohio Revised Code §713.22 provides that a board of county commissioners of any county may, and on petition of the planning commissions of a majority of the municipal corporations in the county having those planning commissions shall, provide for the organization and maintenance of a county planning commission, and

**WHEREAS**, Ohio Revised Code §713.22 provides for representation from municipalities and townships including eleven members and eleven alternates with the following requirements:

Three county commissioners or their alternates

Six representatives who are residents of the county. Or five representatives from a limited home rule government township (from nominations by such township boards)

One representative residing in Cincinnati (from nominations by Cincinnati City Council)

**WHEREAS**, the Hamilton

County Commissioners support the establishment of a county planning commission and have requested consideration of the proposal by municipal planning commissions, and

**WHEREAS**, Ohio Revised Code §713.22 provides that a county planning commission shall be funded entirely by the Board of County Commissioners thereby eliminating current

inequities in local jurisdiction fees for membership on the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission, and

**WHEREAS**, dissolution of the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission also results in dissolution of the Planning Partnership, an advisory committee of member planning commissions focused on countywide long range comprehensive planning, by

virtue of the fact that the Planning Partnership was established as a committee of the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission, and

**WHEREAS**, the Planning Partnership, or other alliance of planning commissions in Hamilton County, can be reestablished as a committee of the county planning commission if and when a county planning commission is established.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**

that the Planning Commission of the [City / Village] of hereby petitions the Board of County Commissioners of Hamilton County, Ohio to organize and maintain a county planning commission, and

that the Planning Commission of the [City / Village] of approves the transfer of all functions, powers, and duties of the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission to the Hamilton County Planning Commission on the effective date of establishment of the Hamilton County Planning Commission, and

that the Planning Commission of the [City / Village] of approves the dissolution of the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission on the effective date of establishment of the Hamilton County Planning Commission.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this Resolution be directed by the secretary of the Planning Commission to the [City / Village] manager, the [City / Village] Council, the clerk of the Board of County Commissioners of Hamilton County, Ohio (Room 603, County Administration Building, 138 East Court Street, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45202-1237), and the Secretary of the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission (Room 807, County Administration Building, 138 East Court Street, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45202-1237).

*Passed (*

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**ATTEST:**

           Secretary

           -Chairman



HAMILTON COUNTY

## Regional Planning Commission

### Commissioners

Hal Franke John Linnenberg Melvin D. Martin Donald Mirach  
David Okum M. Larry Sprague James R. Tarbell

**Executive Director** Ronald P. Miller, FAICP Cities

Blue Ash

Cheviot Cincinnati Deer Park Forest Park Harrison

Lincoln Heights Loveland Madeira Milford Montgomery

Mount Healthy North College Hill Norwood

Reading St. Bernard Sharonville

Silverton Springdale Village of Indian Hill Wyoming

### Villages

Addyston Amberly Village Arlington Heights Clèves

Elmwood Place Evendale Fairfax Glendale Golf Manor Greenhills Lockland Mariemont Newlon North Bend

Terrace Park Woodlawn

Tow-- Anderson

Colerain Columbia

Crosby Delhi

Green Harrison

Miami Springfield Sycamore

Symmes Whitewater

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**To all Municipal Planning Commissions and Jurisdiction Members of the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission:**

**April 10, 2006**

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By this letter, the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission (HCRPC) is requesting all municipal planning commissions and jurisdiction members of HCRPC to consider approval of the attached petition. In accordance with state law, approval of the petition by a majority of the county's municipal planning commissions will enable creation of a county planning commission. The simultaneous approval of the petition by a majority of HCRPC's current jurisdiction members (municipal planning commissions and boards of township trustees having paid the 2006 HCRPC membership fee) will enable dissolution of Hamilton County's regional planning commission, and transfer of all HCRPC functions and duties to a new county planning commission. Any changes resulting from the petition will take place in 2007.


Community planning structure, and practice has changed dramatically since HCRPC's establishment 77 years ago when it was one of a few planning organizations in the county. Today, in addition to HCRPC's planning services, the county has a plethora of planning and coordinating agencies-including 37 municipal planning commissions, and planning and zoning boards in most of the 12 townships. At the county and regional level, infrastructure and growth is now planned and regulated through professional staff by functional area- e.g., roads, water, sewer, economic development, housing, etc. Even more multi-jurisdictional planning is provided by a host of boards and staff associated with Hamilton County's 16 special government districts-e.g., Solid Waste Management District and Storm Water Management District.

Today, with an entirely different situation to deal with, we must reinvent Hamilton County's planning structure to better respond to current and *future* needs. Several documents explaining the purpose and details of the proposed conversion are enclosed. However, if your planning commission or elected officials would like additional information you can contact Ron Miller, HCRPC executive director, at 946-4453 or at [ron.miller@hamilton-fmrg.org](mailto:ron.miller@hamilton-fmrg.org).

Please return the attached petition, if approved by your planning commission, to HCRPC as soon as possible, but no later than July 31, 2006.

Thanks for your community's involvement and support of the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission during the past 77 years and thanks for your consideration of the proposed organizational change to fit Hamilton County's current environment and future planning needs. i'

THE HAMILTON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION\

  
Hal Franke, chairman

  
Ron Miller, executive director

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H:\ADMINISTRATION\Conversion to Co PC\to municipalities and HCRPC members.doc  
138 E. COURT ST. RM 807 | CINCINNATI, OH 45202-1237  
PHONE (513) 946-4500 | FAX (513) 946-4475 | [www.hamilton-co.org/hcrpc](http://www.hamilton-co.org/hcrpc)

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[VILLAGE / CITY], OHIO

RESOLUTION NO,

## Resolution

Petitioning the Board of County Commissioners of Hamilton County, Ohio to Convert Hamilton County's Planning Commission Structure from Regional Form to County Form

To: The Board of County Commissioners of Hamilton County, Ohio

### **WHEREAS**, Ohio Revised

Code §713.22 provides that a board of county commissioners of any county may, and on petition of the planning commissions of a majority of the municipalities in the county having those planning commissions shall, provide for the organization and maintenance of a county planning commission, and

**WHEREAS**, Ohio Revised Code §713.23(c) enables the regional planning commission, by mutual agreement, to transfer its functions, powers, and duties to a county planning commission whenever a regional planning commission and county planning commission are established in the same county, and

**WHEREAS**, Ohio Revised Code §713.22 provides for representation from municipalities and townships including eleven members and eleven alternates with the following requirements:

.Three county commissioners or their alternates

.Six representatives who are residents of the county

.One representative from a limited home rule government township (from nominations by such township boards)

.One representative residing in Cincinnati (from nominations by Cincinnati City Council)

**WHEREAS**, the Hamilton County Commissioners support the establishment of a county planning commission and have requested consideration of the proposal by municipal planning commissions, and

### **WHEREAS**, Ohio Revised

Code §713.22 provides that a county planning commission shall be funded entirely by the Board of County Commissioners thereby eliminating current inequities in local jurisdiction fees for membership on the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission, and

**WHEREAS**, dissolution of the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission also results in dissolution of the Planning Partnership, an advisory committee of member planning commissions that focuses on countywide long range comprehensive planning, by

virtue of the fact that the Planning Partnership was established as a committee of the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission, and

**WHEREAS**, the Planning Partnership, or other alliance of planning commissions in Hamilton County, can be reestablished as a committee of the county planning commission if and when a county planning commission is established.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

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that the Planning Commission of the [City / Village] of hereby petitions the Board of County Commissioners of Hamilton County, Ohio to organize and maintain a county planning commission, and

that the Planning Commission of the [City / Village] of approves the transfer of all functions, powers, and duties of the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission to the Hamilton County Planning Commission on the effective date of establishment of the Hamilton County Planning Commission, and

that the Planning Commission of the [City / Village] of approves the dissolution of the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission on the effective date of establishment of the Hamilton County Planning Commission.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this Resolution be directed by the secretary of the Planning Commission to the [City / Village] manager, the [City / Village] Council, the clerk of the Board of County Commissioners of Hamilton County, Ohio (Room 603, County Administration Building, 138 East Court Street, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45202-1237), and the Secretary of the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission (Room 807, County Administration Building, 138 East Court Street, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45202-1237).

***Passed (Date --)***

ATTEST :

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman





HAMILTON COUNTY  
**Regional Planning Commission**

**ADMIN NO. 09-2006**

## **Resolution**

Supporting Conversion of Hamilton County's Planning Commission Structure from Regional Form to County Form

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By the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission

**WHEREAS**, Ohio Revised Code §713.22 provides that a board of county commissioners of any county may, and on petition of the planning commissions of a majority of the municipal corporations in the county having those planning commissions shall, provide for the organization and maintenance of a county planning commission, and

**WHEREAS**, Ohio Revised Code §713.23(c) enables the regional planning commission, by mutual agreement, to transfer its functions, powers, and duties to a county planning commission whenever a regional planning commission and county planning commission are established in the same county, and

**WHEREAS**, Ohio Revised Code §713.22 provides for representation from municipalities and townships including eleven members and eleven alternates with the following requirements:

- .Three county commissioners or their alternates
- .Six representatives who are residents of the county
- .One representative from a limited home rule government township (from nominations by such township boards)
- .One representative residing in Cincinnati (from nominations by Cincinnati City Council)

**WHEREAS**, Ohio Revised Code §713.22 provides that a county planning commission shall be funded entirely by the Board of County Commissioners thereby eliminating current inequities in local jurisdiction fees for membership on the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission, and

**WHEREAS**, dissolution of the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission also results in dissolution of the Planning Partnership, an advisory committee of member planning commissions focused on countywide long range comprehensive planning, by virtue of the fact that the Planning Partnership was established as a committee of the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission, and

**WHEREAS**, the Planning Partnership, or other alliance of planning commissions in Hamilton County, can be reestablished as a committee of the county planning commission if and when a county planning commission is established.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: 1. that Hamilton County's Regional Planning Commissioners support the establishment of a county planning commission if requested by a majority of municipal planning commissions in Hamilton County and requests that a petition for such establishment be drafted and circulated to the 37 municipal planning commissions by the Executive Director/Secretary of the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission.**

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that Hamilton County's Regional Planning Commissioners support the transfer of all functions, powers, and duties of the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission to the Hamilton County Planning Commission on the effective date of establishment of the Hamilton County Planning Commission if such county planning commission is requested by a majority of jurisdiction members of the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission.

that Hamilton County's Regional Planning Commissioners support the dissolution of the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission on the effective date of establishment of the Hamilton County Planning Commission if such county planning commission is requested by a majority of jurisdiction members of the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this Resolution be directed by the HCRPC executive director/secretary to all city and village managers, mayors and planning commissions in Hamilton County, and the Board of County Commissioners of Hamilton County, Ohio.

Moved

VOTE

ACTION

DATE:

ATTEST

Misrach

AYE:

NAY: ABSTAIN:

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01  
0.

Seconded

Linnenberg

Franke, Linnenberg, Misrach, Okum, Sprague

Approval of Resolution

**April 6, 2006**

Chairman

11:11 PM

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Secretary:   
Ron Miller, FAICP

# Comparison of Existing and Alternative Structure

## EXISTING STRUCTURE

Hamilton County REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

## ALTERNATIVE STRUCTURE

Hamilton County  
COUNTY  
PLANNING COMMISSION

Enabling authority:

Number of 7

representatives:: 1

Quorum: 4

-  
6  
5 whe!e\_BOCC abstains  
Number of -- 1 11 (plus 11 alternates are authorized) representatives i

--po~nte~ QY ~ogc::: -.i Membership structure 0 Four representatives from townships 0 Three county commiSSioners or their and appointing ,. appointed by the Board of County alternates  
authority: Commissioners (from nominations by "0 Six representatives who are residents of townships and other parties) the county  
0 One representative from a municipality 0 One representative from a limited hon'le appointed by the Board of County rule government township\* (from Commissioners nominations by such township boards)  
0 One representative from a municipal :0 One representative residing in Cincinnati planning commission elected by (from nominations by Cincinnati City municipal planning commissions Council)  
0 One representative from Cincinnati  
appointed by the Cincinnati Planning Commission

aRC 713.21

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a:  
**aRC 713.22**

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(may include elected officials, local planning commission members, and other public office holders)

(may include elected officials, local planning commission members, and other public office holders)

Alternate Representatives:	<input type="radio"/> None authorized in current bylaws	<input type="radio"/> 11 authorized by state law		
Terms:	<input type="radio"/> 5 Years	<input type="radio"/> 3 Years		

Compensation:

Establishment:-

**Funding (2005)**

0 None appropriated (but authorized by 0 Authorized by 5B 115 at discretion of SB 115 at discretion of BOCC for BOCC for representatives who are not representatives who ar~ not elected elected officials officials)  
0 Per vote of local gover~ments and 0 BOCC may create  
BOCC 0 BOCC shall create if petitioned by a majority of municipal corporations in t~e  
.."" county having planning comm!ssions i 0 88% by BOCC 8% by CDBG  
4% by service fees

Special Authority

*Limited home rule government townships in Hamilton County include Anderson, Colerain, Delhi, Springfield, Sycamore, and Symmes townships.*

# Potential Transition of HCRPC Representatives to County Planning Commission

## EXISTING STRUCTURE

Hamilton County REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

(5 appointments by BOCC)

## ALTERNATIVE STRUCTURE

Hamilton County COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

appointments by BOCCI,

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1.. I 1 of 4 representatives from

townships appointed by the

Board of County Commissioners (from nominations by townships and other parties)

2. I 1 of 4 representatives from townships appointed by the

Board of County Commissioners (from nominations by townships

and other parties)- 3. 1 of 4 representatives *from townships appointed by the*

Board of County Commissioners (from nominations by townships and other parties )-

1 of 4 representatives *from townships appointed by the*

Board of County Commissioners (from nominations by townships

and other parties) i

1 representative from a 1 ~f 6 representatives who are municipality appointed by the re\$idents of the county Board of County Commissioners

1 representative from a 1 df 6 representatives who are municipal planning commission reSidents of the county elected by municipal plannina commissions

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1 of 6 representatives who are residents of the county

5.

1 of 6 representatives who are residents of the county

6 .

1 of 6 representatives who are residents of the county

1 of 6 representatives who are residents of the county

## REPRESENTATIVES

(pending BOCC appointment)

John Linnenberg (or alternate) *{Green Township}*

Larry Sprague (or alternate) *.[Anderson Township\*]*

Hal Franke (or alternate) *[Delhi Township\*]*

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**Don Misrach (or alternate)**  
***[Symmes Township.]***

Mel Martin (or alternate) *{City of Madeira}*

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**David Okum (or alternate)**  
***[City of Springdale]***

7.	1 representative residing in Cincinnati <u>appointed by the Cincinnati Planning Commission</u>	1 representative residing in Cincinnati (from nominations by Cincinnati City Council)	Jim Tarbell (or alternate) <i>[City of Cincinnati]</i>	
8.		1 representative residing in a limited home rule government township (from nominations by such township boards)	* (or alternate)	
9.		1 of 3 county commissioners or alternate representatives	Pat DeWine (or alternate)	
10.		1 of 3 county commissioners or alternate representatives	Phil Heimlich (or alternate)	
11.		1 of 3 county commissioners or alternate representatives	Todd Portune (or alternate)	

The County Planning Commission must have at least one representative from a limited home rule government township. Limited home rule townships in Hamilton County include Anderson, Colerain, Delhi, Springfield, Sycamore, and Symmes

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# Purpose of Converting Hamilton County's Planning Commission Structure from Regional Form to County Form

As authorized by Ohio Revised Code § 713 .22, the board of county commissioners shall establish a county planning commission upon petition of the planning commissions of a majority of the municipalities in the county. Whenever a regional planning commission and county planning commission are established in the same county, Ohio Revised Code §713.23(c) enables the regional planning commission, by mutual agreement, to transfer its functions, powers, and duties to the county planning commission.

The attached petition (a resolution) to the Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners requesting establishment of a county planning commission (and subsequent dissolution of the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission) is recommended for the following reasons.

## Ten Reasons

for Hamilton County to Convert from a Regional Planning Commission to a County Planning Commission

1. The Hamilton County Commissioners support the establishment of a county planning commission and have requested consideration of the proposal by municipal planning commissions. aRC §713.22 authorizes establishment of a county planning commission either by petition of the planning commissions of a majority of the municipalities in the county or by a majority vote of the county commissioners.
2. The proposed county planning commission structure is a **better fit for the current funding** of the planning commission. The Board of County Commissioners (General Fund), in 2005, provided 94% of HCRPC funding; whereas, when the regional planning commission was initially established, local governments equally contributed to the commission's appropriations.
3. The proposed county planning commission structure eliminates current inequities in local fees and services. Even though RPC services are provided to each of Hamilton County's 49 local governments, annual fees for local governments to be members of a regional planning commission are voluntary; and in 2005, 27 (55%) of our 49 jurisdictions elected not to pay the HCRPC annual fee. Currently, the 2006 HCRPC membership includes 20 jurisdictions. Another inequity results from the fact that townships receive the majority of HCRPC services even though seven of the twelve townships elected not to pay the HCRPC annual fee in 2005. The 2006 HCRPC membership only includes three townships. The county planning commission structure would help resolve this inequity by operating without voluntary annual membership renewals and without voluntary annual fees from local governments. Special services can continue to be provided by contract with any jurisdiction.
4. Implementation of Hamilton County's 2030 Plan requires greater alignment of BOCC goals, planning commission initiatives, and other county department work programs (e. g., for sewerage, stonn water, roads, transportation, zoning, environment,



economic development, etc.). The proposed county planning commission structure facilitates this desired alignment and collaboration since the planning department will report directly to the County Administrator, just like other county departments. The revised structure increases potential for implementation of plans and achievement of local and county goals since the County Planning Commission will be more closely aligned with county commissioners' goals and initiatives, while the Planning Partnership will be more closely aligned with local planning commission goals and initiatives.

5. Reorganization of the Planning Partnership as an inclusive alliance of all local planning commissions in our county will provide a **better structure for facilitating local government collaboration, expanding the capacity of local planning commissions, and building partnerships with other organizations** without maintaining a cumbersome regional planning commission structure created over 75 years ago.

6 ~ The proposed county planning commission structure **saves taxpayers money** by eliminating biannual audits of the regional planning commission as required by the State of Ohio due to HCRPC's independent government status. Eliminating state audits will result in biannual savings of at least \$14,000 in addition to annual savings related to staff time required for audit preparation.

7 **.Greater productivity of planning staff** will be possible by eliminating the need for time spent annually on administrative tasks related to coordinating membership, recruitment, marketing, fee schedules, invoices, collection actions, etc. necessary to sustain regional planning commission membership.

8. The new structure of the planning commission also requires a new structure for its long range planning committee --the Planning Partnership --as a more inclusive action oriented alliance of all planning commissions. By reorganizing in a leaner, less bureaucratic structure, the Planning Partnership, local planning commissions, and allied organizations can be more efficient and effective in implementing Hamilton County's 2030 Plan and achieving other goals of the Planning Partnership.

9. The proposed county planning commission structure **enables greater potential for future consideration of a joint city/county planning commission** or shared services, and more cost-effective, sustainable, and successful planning to address the interconnected problems and opportunities {economic, social, environment, transportation, land use, housing, etc.) of our rural and urban county.

10. The three County Commissioners (or their appointed alternates) will serve on the County Planning Commission (as required by state law) -increasing their awareness of, and participation in, planning commission initiatives. BOCC participation on the county planning commission also enables greater utilization of planning commission staff and greater success of county initiatives through support by planning commission staff (e.g., county report card, county website, county task forces, data analysis, and graphics).

'4-7-07



HAMILTON COUNTY

## Regional Planning Commission

### Commissioners

Hal Franke John Linnenberg  
Melvin D. Manin  
Donald Misrach  
David Okum  
M Larry Sprague James R. Tarbell

### Executive Director

Ronald P. Miller, FAICP

### Cities

Blue Ash Cheviot  
Cincinnati  
Deer Park Forest Park Harrison  
Lincoln Heights  
Loveland Madeira Milford  
Montgomery Mount Healthy Nonh College Hill Norwood Reading  
St. Bernard Sharonville Silverton Springdale  
Village of Indian Hill Wyoming

### Villages

Addyston Amberly Village Arlington Heights Cleves  
Elmwood Place Evendale Fairfax  
Glendale  
Golf Manor Greenhills Lockland Mariemont Newlawn Nonh Bend  
Terrace Park Woodlawn

### Townships

Anderson Colerain Columbia Crosby  
Delhi  
Green Harrison Miami Springfield Sycamore Symmes  
Whitewater

# Planning in Hamilton County: Regional or County Form?

## C~U~H~J~I~Y~P~L~A~N~N~I~N~G~E~V~O~L~U~T~I~O~N

Hamilton County in the mid-20s was growing rapidly in population accompanied by haphazard and unregulated development of land. Increasingly, developers were creating scattered subdivisions relying on wells and privy vaults. The new suburban development avoided investments in water and sewer systems as well as systems for roads, gas, and electric. With increasing problems related to public health and public finance, thirteen municipal planning commissions recognized that unorganized growth beyond their boundaries, as well as other issues crossing jurisdiction boundaries, could not be resolved by their individual communities working alone; collaboration and countywide coordination was needed.

In what was considered a pioneering movement in the nation, in 1929 Hamilton County organized its jurisdictions under the umbrella of a regional planning commission to guide growth and coordinate infrastructure improvements throughout the county. Each of the member jurisdictions contributed their proportionate share of operating costs to assure success of this voluntary and cooperative form of planning and development coordination. While the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission (HCRPC) was initially funded largely by member municipalities, today municipal fees provide less than 4% of the commission's annual budget.

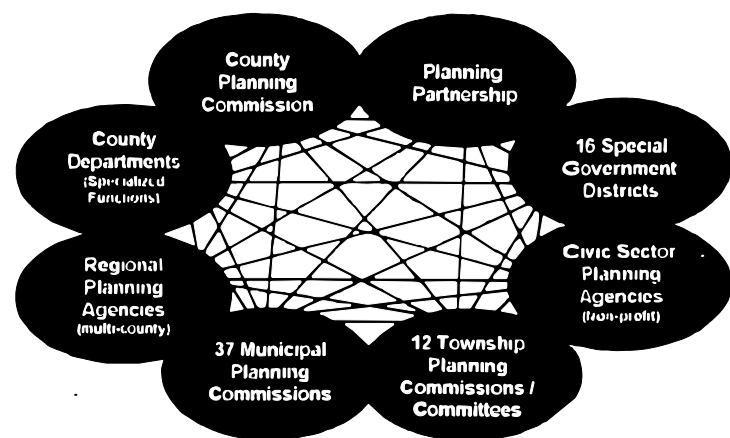
## CURRENT PLANNING NETWORK

The Hamilton County of 2006 has changed dramatically in its planning and development structure and practices. Today, in addition to the HCRPC, the county has a plethora of planning and coordinating agencies, including 37 municipal planning commissions, planning and zoning boards in most of the 12 townships, and more than 350 planning commissioners. Many municipalities and townships have also created professional departments for local planning related to land use and infrastructure. At the county and regional level, infrastructure and growth are now planned and regulated through professional staff in the offices

of the county engineer, public works department, water works, environmental services, economic development department, community development department, OK!, etc.

Even more multi- jurisdictional planning is provided by a host of boards and staff associated with Hamilton County's 16 special government districts (e.g., the Transportation Improvement District, Solid Waste Management District, Storm Water Management District, Metropolitan Sewer District, Port authority, Soil and Water Conservation District, General Health District,

### Planning Network in Hamilton County



138 E COURT ST RM 8071 CINCINNATI, OH 45202-1237  
PHONE (513)946-4500 | FAX (513)946-4475 | [www.hamilton-co.org/hClpc](http://www.hamilton-co.org/hClpc)



The Planning Partnership's mission and work program will continue to be achieved through the focused efforts of these partnerships and perhaps additional alliances as new opportunities are identified. This new and evolving structure of the county's planning commission reflects where we are today and what is realistic and required for success in 2006 and beyond.

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### CONVERSION PROCESS

State law requires that the county commissioners create and maintain a county planning commission if petitioned by a majority of the municipal planning commissions in the county. The attached petition (municipal planning commission resolution) has been sent to all municipal planning commissions in Hamilton County to enable consideration of the creation of a county planning commission, dissolution of the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission and transfer of all functions and duties to a new County Planning Commission. Any changes resulting from the petition will take place in 2007.

For more information you can contact Ron Miller, HCRPC Executive Director at 513-946- 4453 or [ron.miller@hamilton-co.org](mailto:ron.miller@hamilton-co.org).

4-7-07